

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 were presented for examination, are pending and are rejected.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9-11, 14-17, 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Berman et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The applicants' claim 1 recites the step of "measuring the thickness of said figure-correcting layer." Berman et al. does not measure the thickness of the figure-correcting layer. Claims 2, 5, 6, 9-11, 14-17, 19 and 21 depend from claim 1.

Therefore the rejection should be withdrawn.

The 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 3, 7, 8, 18, 20 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berman. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The rejection of claims 3, 7, 8, 18, 20 and 22 should be withdrawn because they depend from claim 1 which should be allowable over Berman as discussed above.

Claims 4, 8 and 23-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berman in view of Geullich. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The rejection of claims 4 and 8 should be withdrawn because they depend from claim 1. Claim 23 has been amended to include the step of "measuring the thickness of said figure-correcting layer" which is missing from the Berman reference and the Geullich reference. Claims 24-32 depend from claim 23. Therefore the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berman in view of Katzir et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The rejection of claim 12 should be withdrawn since it depends from claim 1.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berman in view of Ju et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

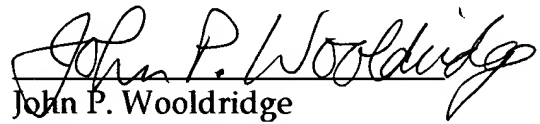
The rejection of claim 13 should be withdrawn since it depends from claim 1.

Conclusions

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance based on claims 1-24 and 26-32 in view of the amendments thereto and the foregoing comments.

If any impediments remain to prompt allowance of the case, please contact the undersigned at 808-270-1011.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John P. Wooldridge".

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Dated: September 10, 2003